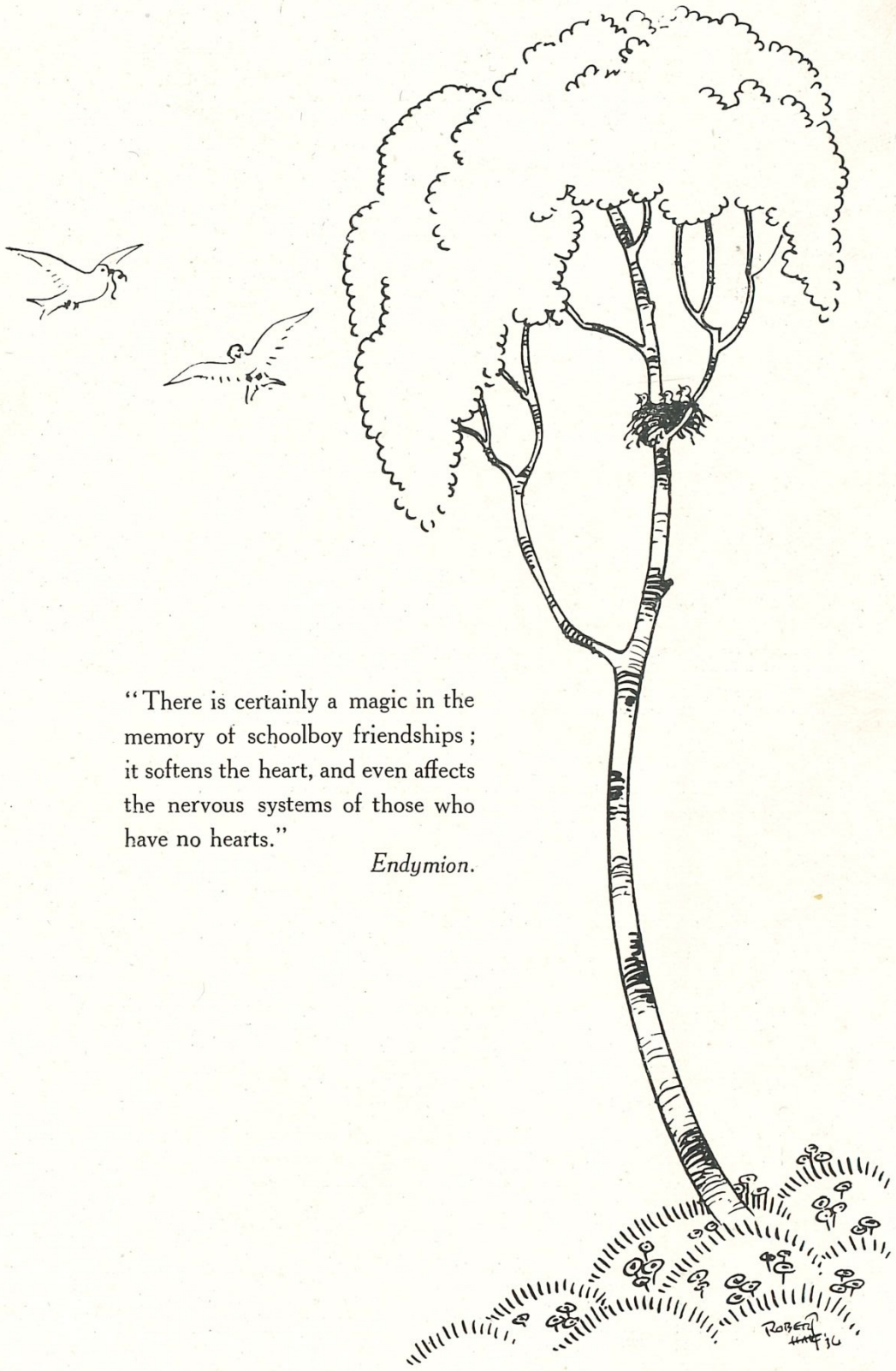
# The Levite

The Magazine of the JOHN WATSON CLUB



"There is certainly a magic in the memory of schoolboy friendships; it softens the heart, and even affects the nervous systems of those who have no hearts."

*Endymion.*

## THE JOHN WATSON CLUB.

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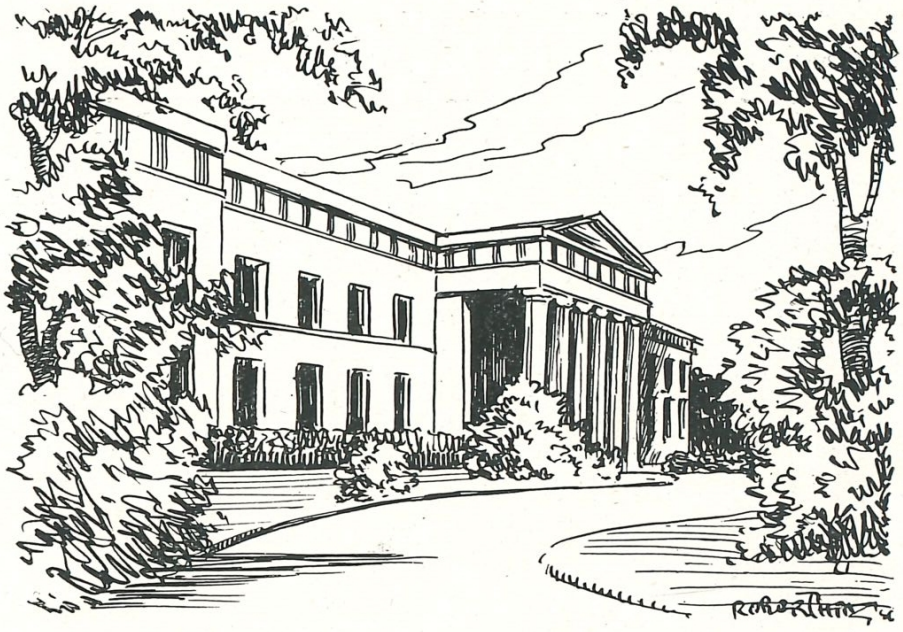

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*Editor*—GAVIN R. MILLAR, M.A.

SPRING NUMBER 1936

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## EDITORIAL.

Doctor Johnson in his famous Dictionary defined a lexicographer as "a harmless drudge." He might with equal truth have so defined an Editor. For is not an editor the most inoffensive of mortals? That he is also a drudge no one with any knowledge of the game will deny The present editor approaches with trepidation the responsibilities of a new office.

In our experience, *The Levite* has been maintained and developed under two editors of great ability, Messrs D. M. Thomson and G. D. S. Forsyth. The present editor thanks his predecessors for the great work they have done and for their invaluable guidance. We are only sorry that they have set such a high standard of production to maintain or to emulate.

If this Magazine is not all that it might be in coming numbers we make the plea of Prospero in the play—

"Bear with our weakness; our old brain is troubled."

## G. D. S. FORSYTH, M.A.

"The foundation of every noble character is sincerity." The truth of this is brought home to us when we think of G. D. S. Forsyth, for everything that he does and says is imbued with a deep spirit of sincerity. It was in this spirit that he resigned the Editorship, for he felt that his other interests did not permit his doing full justice to his office.

G. D. S. Forsyth, known to his contemporaries as "Doldie" and to his "Levite" friends as George, entered John Watson's in 1910 and left in 1916.

At School he showed a keen interest in sport, so that it is not surprising for us to find him playing this year in the Moray House pack for the sixteenth successive season, and to find him on week-nights a very enthusiastic Badminton player. He appears to have inexhaustible vitality.

On leaving J.W.I., he continued his education at George Watson's and from there entered the University of Edinburgh where he graduated M.A. in 1922.

In the autumn of 1923 he joined the teaching staff of Daniel Stewart's College where he has been ever since.

From the time he left John Watson's, George has been a loyal supporter of the Club and keenly interested in his old School. It was, therefore, very fitting that he should be asked to edit *The Levite* on the retiral of Mr D. M. Thomson. The offer of this task he accepted generously.

The path along which he has had to go as Editor has not been an enviable one, for much of his copy was restricted to the affairs of the Endowments' Commission. Even the drab duties of an

Editor however, are sometimes lit up by a glow of comedy. We had just changed our printer. For his first interview with the new printer George had taken with him a back number of *The Levite* that he might better illustrate what was required. The printer appeared to be somewhat puzzled, looking now at the Magazine before him, now at the facial features of our Editor. After a time of uncertainty the printer exclaimed in exasperation. "You know you do not look in the least bit like a Jew!" I think this story must have been ample compensation to George for the worries inflicted upon him by that issue.

It is of significance to note that George took up his Editorship at the commencement of Volume Five. It is at the close of this Volume that he hands the pen over to another, having as it were finished his lap. Volume Five contains in it many great numbers which are a reflection of the able way in which he discharged his duties. For this great work and service, the entire Club thanks him profoundly.

As far as those "Levites" who stay away from Edinburgh are concerned, George has made an exodus, but those of us who are nearer home and act in an official capacity rejoice to know that he is with us on the Council where his able advice in administration will be found as helpful as in the past.

F. R. D.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting held at John Watson's School, on Saturday, 4th January, 1936.

The Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting were read and approved.

The Council's Annual Report was then read as follows :— The Council have pleasure in presenting this, the 34th Annual Report, for the year 1935 has witnessed much activity by the Former Pupils for their old School. Chief amongst these was the Garden Fête held in June, when a sum of over £700 was raised and handed to the Former Pupils' Committee to be expended on improving the interior of the School.

*The Levite.* During the year one special and two ordinary numbers of *The Levite* have been published. Each has been very attractive and right up to the standard of previous years. The special number was issued by the Fête Committee who bore the expenditure. (Copies were sold at 2s. each.) The Council have to report with much regret that they have accepted Mr G. D. S. Forsyth's resignation as Editor, and they wish to place on record their deep appreciation of Mr Forsyth's work.

The Club Roll. There were 62 Life Members and 153 Ordinary Members, and 9 New Members were added.

Prizes. The following prizes were awarded :—

*Dux Medal*—F. S. Miles.

*Rowe Memorial Medal*—Annie Carmichael.

*Langhorne Bronze Medal*—R. Ure.

*Ronaldson Memorial Prize*—Annie Carmichael.

*Sports Championship Prize*—Sydney Scroggie.

*Finances.*—The Finances were very satisfactory. Although from the figures there were still a number of 1935 subscriptions unpaid, this was attributed to the fact that Garden Fête business had curtailed the activities of the Club.

Dr. A. J. Muirhead intimated to the Council that he wished to resign. The Council, after consideration, asked Dr. Muirhead if he would be willing to act as a Joint-Secretary with Mr Rex Dilly for one year. Dr. Muirhead agreed to the suggestion. The Council therefore recommended that the General Meeting appoint these two " Levites " as Joint-Secretaries.

The Council express on behalf of their members their gratitude to Major Naismith and Miss Gellatly for their many acts of kindness towards the Former Pupils during 1935 ; to Dr. A. J. Muirhead, the Secretary ; to Mr Rex Dilly, the Assistant Secretary ; to Mr E. Ros Birkett for his services as Treasurer ; to Mr G. D. S. Forsyth for all the work he did as Editor.

*Election of Office-Bearers.*—Office-Bearers were elected as stated on page 2 of the Magazine.

The Meeting decided that the same prizes as had been awarded in 1935 should be given in the current year.

Professor Stevenson asked that a note might be made as to the expenditure of individual subscriptions. The following data give some indication as to how " Levites' " money is spent :—*Levite*, 3s. ; bursaries, 1s. 8d. ; postages, etc., 8d. ; prizes, 6d. ; strawberries, 3d. ; orchestra and guests at Reunion, 6d. ; sundries, 3d. ; transfer to Reserve Fund, 1s. ; making a total of 7s. 10d.

Mr D. M. Thomson asked that the financial statement be included in the forthcoming number of *The Levite*. This suggestion was approved by the meeting. Owing to the complex nature of the present financial affairs of the Club it has not been found possible to comply with this request. An audited statement will be included in the forthcoming number.

## THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner was held as usual this year in the Boys' Dining Room. To " Levites " who have in past years tasted the succulence of this dinner, the arrangement of the tables presented a new and appealing aspect. The rigid simplicity of parallel tables had given way to a new scheme by which one long table was accom-

panied by two embayments. Thus a more intimate intercourse was possible, and yet there was ample room and spaciousness.

Miss Gellatly, President of the Old Girls' Club was the capable Chairman. After the Chairman had proposed the toast of " The King," Professor Stevenson speaking to the toast of " John Watson's Past and Present," outlined the position of the School in its relation to the Endowments' Commission. He mentioned the great things the School had done in the past and painted a glowing picture of the possibilities for the future. The Deputy Keeper of the Signet, Mr E. W. Wedderburn, replying, spoke on behalf of the Governors. He shared the proposer's hope that the School would prosper. He mentioned that as certain necessary formalities had not yet been carried out the Governing body was not really in existence This was a revelation to most of us. The very stones of the building seemed to cry out in protest Mr Wedderburn said that he was glad to see the School was keeping up with all the modern movements. With reference to a " Punch and Judy " show, which had recently been held in the School, the Deputy Keeper wittily remarked that this was quite in keeping with the psycho-pathological investigations that were being carried out in the States ! During his speech, Mr Wedderburn threw out the very helpful suggestion that since day-pupils were soon to be admitted to the School, a boarding house run by the Former Pupils might very well look after some of them, in the interests of the boys and to the profit of the Club. From the speaker's remarks it became apparent that two very famous men, apart from Sir J. M. Barrie and Professor Sir David Wilkie, hailed from Angus

Mr James Muirhead in a witty speech proposed the toast of "Absent Friends and ' Levites.' "

Mr G. D. S. Forsyth proposed the toast of " The Chairman." He suggested that such a toast, if it were to be a true appreciation of Miss Gellatly, would be a very prolonged affair. He made the plea, however, that the brevity of his remarks would be amply compensated for by their sincerity.

## THE ANNUAL REUNION.

Take the School Chapel, put in it over a hundred Old Boys and Girls, add happy memories, gay decorations, a dance orchestra playing sweet music, and you have the greatest recipé of all time, past, present and future. What a result A Reunion that can only be made once a year, but yet how fitting that the best should be so rare.

It causes no surprise to those who have tasted, that every year a girl Former Pupil comes from Greenock for this treat, and that other " exiles " come whenever they possibly can. All Old Boys and Girls who have not yet had this glorious experience should repair the omission next year if it is in their power to do so.

It is impossible to describe a Reunion. Words could never do justice to such an occasion, and that of 1935 was the usual success. Rex Dilly, as M.C., performed his duties admirably, and deserves our thanks for obtaining the services of a fine orchestra at very short notice. He sacrificed a day's holiday on our behalf.

We are very grateful to the Directors, Major Naismith and Miss Gellatly for their great kindness towards us, their guests. Especially do we thank our hostess, Miss Gellatly, for whom the Reunion, before and after, must be a very busy time. Truly "She's a Jolly Good Fellow," as those present sang at the conclusion of a very happy day.

B 7.

## "ARTIFEX AND OPIFEX."

As this summer will see the end of much of John Watson's as Former Pupils remember it, it will be interesting to recall to their minds the School as it is and to help them to visualise it as it will be. There are two reasons for the proposed changes, first, the necessity of making the best and most economical use of the space at disposal to obviate the expense of additional building and, second, the need of bringing a century old building as near as possible to the requirements demanded in a modern School.

Some minor changes have taken place within the last ten years which may still be unknown to the more distant readers of this Magazine and these had better be mentioned first. The Girls' Wardrobe Room was converted into a classroom, incidentally the best classroom in the School, and the Directors' Room was also made into a classroom when the School was expanded into six classes to cover the range of ages more adequately than the former four classes. The Girls' Shoe Room was made into a Book Room and the Second Section was made into a Science Room by removing the desks and forms and introducing benches and stools and laying on gas and water. Then came the Depression, the seven lean years from 1928 to 1935, during which the negotiations with the Educational Endowments' Commission were being carried on and no forward step could be taken because of the uncertainty about the future. Then the clouds began to lift and, as a gesture of our intention to conform with what was expected of the School, a workshop was started in the Long Playroom. Then last summer the Former Pupils undertook several improvements in amenity which have already been mentioned in this Magazine, and the Directors undertook a fuller programme of repairs and renovations, wisely reserving their great effort until there had been time for full and careful consideration of all the requirements. All these changes, however, the earlier and the later, were carried through with a minimum of structural alteration. The recognition of the School now as an efficient and grant-earning School and its expansion into a day school as well as into an enlarged boarding school, involve somewhat more drastic treatment.

We shall start our tour of the building on the main or classroom floor. Here two new classrooms are to be formed. The wall between the Headmaster's study and the smaller room, originally known as Mr Rowe's Bedroom, then, as the Library, and recently as Mr Tombleson's Bedroom, is to be removed and a fair-sized classroom as long as the Third Section, but hardly as broad, will be formed. A parallel alteration will take place at the Girls' end of the School, where Miss Gellatly's Sitting Room and Bedroom will be joined to make another classroom. In the existing classrooms minor alterations will take place. The position of doors will be altered to allow better seating arrangements, all desks will be placed so as to have window lighting from the left, fire-places will be replaced by radiators, the outer walls in the Third and Fourth Sections will be pierced for windows to allow of cross ventilation, and doors will be made at the back of 2 Lower Room (Girls' Wardrobe) and Science Room (Second Section) to give access to the two fire escapes which will rise from the "Plainers" of the two playgrounds. In consequence of the creation of the two new classrooms a game of general post will take place up and down the corridor. The Headmaster will move into the assistant master's study and have the adjoining bedroom as an annexe in which to house typewriters and duplicators, bookcases and document cases, in fact all that is covered by the blessed word "paraphernalia," all the accumulations that from time to time take charge and, overflowing tables and chairs and swamping the carpet, threaten to sweep the occupant out of the door altogether. At last he will have a place to which the can invite Directors and visitors and parents without misgiving and be able to offer them a chair. The masters will move from their rather cramped quarters to the more commodious staff dining room. Similarly on the other side of the School, Miss Gallatly will occupy the Assistant Mistresses' Room and the adjoining room and the Mistresses will flit across the passage to the vacated 1 Lower Room (Directors' Room), which has been condemned as being too small for a classroom. Further changes on this floor are that, by the removal of the back stairs, the Book Room will be doubled in size and become a Book-binding and Book-repair Room as well as a store, and a good sized apparatus preparation and Store Room will be formed behind the Science Room.

This removal of the back stairs is also responsible for the most important alteration on the bedroom floor to which we now proceed. Small Sickrooms, each to hold three beds, will be formed behind the Nurses' Rooms, at each side. The former plan of having four large Sickrooms and 24 empty beds (20 per cent. of the total in the School), dates from the time when all cases of illness, slight or infectious, were treated in School, and is, nowadays, when all infectious cases are immediately removed, an extravagant waste of cubic space. The back stairs date from the same time when suspects and convalescents stole down them like conspirators to take the air

in the playgrounds at times when the healthy members of the community were safely in class. New passages will lead to these Sickrooms from opposite the " Conval " doors on each side and the Front and Back Sickrooms will be entered from this passage. These will, in future, be ordinary dormitories but the fire-places in them are retained so that any or all of them may be instantly turned into additional sickrooms at times of an influenza or similar epidemic. Normally, however, they will be the rooms allotted to the smaller boys and girls more immediately under the supervision of the nurses. The " Wee " rooms on each side will be divided into two in order to provide bedrooms for the masters and mistress dispossessed of their rooms on the classroom floor and for an additional resident mistress. Both the bathrooms will also be rearranged and staff bathrooms partitioned off in each, opposite the new windows, which were made last year. There will be a communicating door between the two bathrooms so that both can be used by boys or girls on alternate nights and also to provide access from one side to the other for the nurse on duty in the evening or in the event of fire. Another important change, which, however, calls for no structural alteration, is the restoration of the High Room on the girls' side to the girls as a dormitory, so that in future there will be equal accommodation for girl boarders as for boy boarders. The beds available will be 50 and 50 instead of 52 and 42.

The mention of the High Room leads us now to the basement floor where accommodation must be found for the six maids who have been banished from the High Room. Another game of general post will take place here. Two servants will find a room of their own, if not of one's own, in each of the three apartments hitherto known as the Meat Pantry, Bread Pantry and Cook's Room. These are well lit and fair-sized rooms and the two first-mentioned are much too good for their present allocation. The cook will betake herself and her belongings to what is known as the Soap Pantry, another room which belies its name. These pantries, in turn, will all be centralised in the huge cavernous coal-cellar and adjacent subterranean chambers, which when cleaned out and wood lined and painted will provide ample accommodation for everything and still leave enough storage room for chairs and forms, the bulky sections of the stage, the back-cloth (flats) and our " Greenroom " cupboards and baskets. The coal cellar has always proved a nuisance in the centre of the building as it entailed delivery of coal at the front door and was a source from which coom and dust penetrated far and near. With the introduction of central heating and the restriction of coal fires to a few sitting rooms, there will be no longer need for such an enormous space and the present laundry coal cellar will be found sufficient for our future needs. Another important piece of reconstruction will take place in the kitchen premises. These will be divided lengthwise so that kitchen and scullery will form one long apartment on the window side and provision has been made for the

installation of an " Esse " stove and other modern cooking appliances. Behind the present kitchen half will be a cook's store and a general store and behind the scullery half will be a linen room. The Laundry again, as such, will disappear and in its place will be found Domestic Science instruction rooms, for that subject is to feature in our new curriculum. The laundry-maids' quarters will become the Music Room and the present Music Room, formerly a girls' playroom, will either be made a playroom again, or, if required, a staff Dining Room. The Girls' Playroom to the front of the building has already been lined with lockers and is their changing room. A Cloakroom for day girls will be found in the wide corridor leading to the Laundry and on the boys' side the Cloakroom for day pupils will be the part of the corridor between the new North door and the Drill Room door to which the glass partition will be moved so as to make a division between the Cloakroom and the main corridor. The Drill Room, thanks to some former pupils who devoted part of their Christmas holidays to the task, is now well painted and well lit. It will be heated by radiators and the lucky dozen first round the fire will no longer be able to monopolise the warmth. The Brushing Room will become the general changing room when the new lockers have been made for it and the Boys' Wardrobe Room, no longer needed as such, will become a quiet (?) room for the bigger boys. More lavatory accommodation will be provided at each side consequent to the removal on the ground floor of the back stairs and the old dust traps, the gratings, will be removed and the cavity covered in the whole length of the corridor and provide a channel along which the pipes of the new heating system will be laid. The Long Playroom, now a workshop, will remain for the present as it is, since it will be some years before day boys appear in any number in Upper School classes. When that time comes, a new and more suitable building will be erected on the site of the old converted play-shed. Nothing in the meantime is to take place outside the main buildings except that doors will be made in the back wall of the Gymnasium so that apparatus can be stored there until required and the floor of the Gymnasium left entirely free for Badminton and other forms of exercise demanding space.

Such in outline, for it is impossible in the course of a short article to go into fuller detail, is the programme for the summer. Masons, joiners, engineers, plumbers, etc., will descend in their hordes on the School and we shall be lucky, or unlucky according to one's point of view, if we are able to resume on the appointed day next session. We would welcome at least two visits from every old pupil who can manage them, once before the end of this term, say on the day of the Old Boys' Match or on Vacation Day, to revive old memories and again next session to verify for himself or herself that everything, the planning, the work and the expense has been well worth while.

J. O. N.

## THE KIRKIN'.

Though none of us have attained the distinction of wearing the halo of a good life we have, somehow or other, contrived to encircle the Dean Church with a halo of reminiscence. As the life of the mediæval state could not be explained without explicit reference to the life of the church, so our existences at John Watson's were intimately related to the doings at the Dean. This connection is brought out by the existence of a rhyme which may indeed have changed with time, but which in my day ran thus—

" Good-bye to the Church,
Good-bye to the steeple,
Good-bye to Auld Reekie
And all his good people."

The minister might quite justifiably have resented the epithet "Auld." But the temptation to name him after our city was too great.

The Kirkin' is only another link in the chain that binds the School to the Church and it is my view that this link is invaluable. It is forged in tradition and stamped with the hall-mark of gold tried in the fire.

The Rev. Mr Middleton led the service. He spoke inspiringly on " The Wells of Scripture," emphasising the story of the well of Bethlehem from which the warriors brought water to David at Adullam. He spoke of Christ's living water first mentioned at Sychar in Samaria, and now made available for all. Fifty " Levites " listened attentively and joined heartily in the praise. A beautiful anthem was rendered by the choir.

The service brought back a host of those dormant memories that linger about our schooldays. The whole scheme of Time seemed to collapse in a moment and past and present coalesced in a timeless unity of experience.

## Mr JAMES MACGREGOR (1843-1936).

AT SCHOOL, 1849-58.

Mr J. H. Macgregor, our oldest " Levite " (1858) died on the 17th January of this year. Up to the end Mr Macgregor's unfailing faithfulness to his old School was a marked feature of his life. " Levites " everywhere will mourn the loss of one who has been a father to us all. He was ninety-two years old and from the age of sixty he had made the subject of Genealogy his special study and profession.

" The Perthshire Advertiser " says of him in an article on 18th January :—" Mr Macgregor, who could trace his own family descent back to 1743 (when his forebears had a small farm in Glen Fearnach,

Kirkmichael), was born in 1843, and attended John Watson's Institution at the Dean, of which School he was for many years the 'oldest boy.' . . . . . Even at the advanced age of 92 the labours he undertook were herculean, and members of the staff of the Register House, and various libraries were amazed at the industry of this active nonagenarian in occupying himself several hours a day in searching through books and records which were required for the completion of his beautifully-engrossed pedigrees. Reaching home at 5 p.m. for tea, he would set to work on the notes he had made during the day, working straight on till past midnight, with only an hour's break for a game of draughts with his son or a friend —surely a most exceptional accomplishment for a man of his years and an indication of what good stock Perthshire can produce.

Between his 80th and 90th year he made a regular pilgrimage to Tomduridan, and nothing pleased him better than to rest among the stones and recreate the scenes of earlier days. Such was his remarkable vitality that not only would he walk every foot of the way from Kirkmichael to Tomduridan, when he was over 80, but he would return bearing a heavy stone from the old ruins for his sons to place in a conspicuous place in their homes."

"Levites" may remember that in the autumn number of the Magazine for 1934, there appeared in "Club Talk" a letter which Mr Macgregor had sent to the "Edinburgh Evening News" describing (in verse) his ascent of Arthur's Seat at the age of 90.

Mr Macgregor was a most vital and interesting man, beloved by "Levites," young and old. To the two sons who survive him we offer our deepest sympathy.

## ALEXANDER DOUGLAS LOUDON (1921-36).

AT SCHOOL, 1931-35.

It was with very deep regret that we heard of the death on first April of Alexander Douglas Loudon, one of our youngest "Levites." Following upon a period of illness, he took blood poisoning, which proved fatal.

Since he only left last year, his death has been very keenly felt by the Present Pupils. To his contemporaries of former years his loss will be a very severe one.

Known to his school-fellows as "Duggie," he was popular, a lad of excellent physique and all-round ability. He was a good sportsman and last year he was runner-up at the School Sports.

Although he had only been away from School six months, he had shown great promise by gaining a high place in the Royal Air Force entrance examination. He thus entered the R.A.F. on 21st January of this year.

Two brothers are left at School; to them and to his mother the Former Pupils extend their deepest sympathy.

## SCHOOL NOTES.

We had just got settled down to work, and were enjoying, as all young people do, the frosty weather, when we learned with anxiety that the King had fallen a victim to the cold spell. In a few days all was over, and it was announced, to our regret, that King George V., who had so recently celebrated his Jubilee as a Monarch and who was so well liked by his subjects, had died. But the death of a king means the accession of a new king, and the day after King George's death, we all listened-in to the Proclamation of King Edward VIII.'s accession. On the occasion of the funeral all who were in School listened-in to the service relayed from St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

On Sunday, 1st March, everyone heard the message broadcast by our new King, Edward VIII. For old and young, this was something quite novel, for previous kings have been able only to send their first message to their subjects. This time, instead of reading a message, we actually heard the King's voice, and felt the sympathy expressed in the tone as well as in the words.

On Monday, 27th January, we were visited by Mr Patrick, one of His Majesty's Inspectors. This was by no means such a solemn and impressive ceremony as in previous years when Dr. Smith and Mr Frewen took the whole School in hand for a day and investigated thoroughly all that we had learnt or omitted to learn, and forgotten in the year. Still, we were glad when the Inspector took his departure.

We had a group of visitors one Wednesday afternoon, namely, the St. Andrew's Society, who wished to know something of our School. They were very pleasantly impressed, and particularly with the grounds at the back ; they also seemed to approve heartily of the levelling work carried on in the boys' playground.

To Miss Campbell Johnston our thanks are due for the gift of a microscope to the School. As, up till the present, we have had nothing of this kind, it is very acceptable, and particularly to the Science Classes.

We wish to thank Mr Maclagan Wedderburn, the Deputy Keeper, for obtaining for us, from the Scottish Meteorological Society, four thermometers, which enable us to start making weather observations.

We offer our congratulations to Lyndall Miles of I. Upper, and Violet Foster, for their success in the London Associated Board of Music Examinations. Lyndall passed in the Higher Grade Examination with Distinction, and Violet in the Elementary Examination with Honourable Mention.

## WIRELESS AT SCHOOL.

Wireless has lately been installed in School. It is a large radiogram. We are allowed to listen-in after seven o'clock in the evenings, and it is usually on all Saturday afternoon. We have loud-speakers in most of the class-rooms so that we can listen-in to the talks for Schools. Our term coincides with the wireless term ; so we are fortunate.

As for some reason, we cannot listen-in to the talks on French, the French Master has bought some records, which we hear occasionally. The top class has copied out some of the records, so that it is easier for us to understand them.

I think we are the most fortunate class in the School as we hear the most talks. Geography is very interesting, and there is much in the talks that you never read in a book. You see, they play music to you on foreign instruments. We have heard them play on the Chinese flute and the Japanese banjo. They can also make noises that make you think you are present. There was one very good talk in which typhoons were mentioned, the effect of the wind noise and the lashing of the sea making you realise what a storm was. This term we have done China and Japan.

Drama is the other series to which we listen-in. It is very interesting. Sometimes plays or scenes of plays from different playwrights and even from Shakespeare are acted. This term we have heard, from "A Mid-summer Night's Dream," some scenes in which Bottom was included, so that we could study characters in a play. They have also acted scenes from "The Merchant of Venice," including the Court Scene. We all liked the way in which Dr. McAdam, I think it was, said : "Three thousand ducats ? For three months ? Well ! " and the hot reply : "Three thousand ducats and Antonio bound." We have done the whole of the history of the play. We have missed only one play, because of the examinations.

Some of us think that France is the only place we can get at nights because that is all we hear. But whatever we hear or think we hear, we all enjoy the wireless very much as it affords much entertainment.

A. R. G. (II. Up.)

## THE DAILY MILK.

At half-past ten every day we have a quarter of an hour break between lessons. It has been customary for us, as long as I have been here, to receive an apple and a piece of bread at that time. Now, since the School is under the City Education Committee, we follow a different routine. For breakfast, instead of porridge alone, we receive an apple, a slice of bread and our usual porridge.

At "break," like other schools, we receive our "daily milk," that is, a half-pint bottle of milk with straw stuck through the tin cap. The scheme was started on Wednesday, 4th March, 1936, and, as may be expected, we are all rather excited at half-past ten, and we all rush down for our milk. But after a week or two, the excitement will have cooled down to normal again.

R. M. (II. Up.)

## THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The Dramatic Society wishes to record its thanks to Mr J. F. Fairweather, W.S., Mr K. Sanderson, W.S., Mr A. P. Melville, W.S., and the Rev. J. B. Grant for donations of 10s. each. Thanks to these donations, we have not lost money over the production of Henry V., though the cost of that production has made it impossible to make any important reduction on our debt incurred last year.

## THE HOCKEY SEVEN-A-SIDES.

Their first match was with Tynecastle, and after a struggle, they won 1-0. Winnie Jeffrey helped to get the goal, for she saved a goal by the opposing team, shot hard out to Sheila Scott who scored.

The game against Bellevue was very equal, 0-0. In the second game Jessie Abbott went up the line and passed to Doris McGown, who shot a hard one into the net, bringing the victorious team into the semi-final.

They now played Darroch, a hard game. It was 1-0 half-time, thanks to Doris McGown. Soon after the second half began Sheila Scott scored. After a number of "scrummages" in the middle of the field, Doris broke away and scored at the end, making the score 3-0.

"The Final." The Trinity team were a bit heavier than ours, but for the third time we won. J. W. (II. Up.)

## MY HOME IS IN ERIN.

My home is in Erin,
Away by the sea,
Where the North 'Lantic breakers
Play music to me,

My home is in Erin,
The land of my heart,
Oh! Erin, my homeland,
My treasure thou art.

At night 'neath my straw roof,
All peaceful I'll lie,
And hark to the sea-birds
When at morning they cry,

My home is in Erin, etc.

And when the day cometh,
Then I shall get up
And lay me my table
With knife, plate and cup.

My home is in Erin, etc.

But here I shall live
'Side the sea, 'neath the sky;
And here I'll remain
In good peace till I die.

My home is in Erin,
The land of my heart,
Oh! Erin, my Homeland,
My treasure thou art.

P. O'D. (II. Up.)

## HOCKEY NOTES.

1ST XI. FIXTURES.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 11th | Gillespie's 2nd XI. | H | W | 5 | 1 |
| Feb. | 1st | Queen Street 2nd XI. | A | L | 0 | 4 |
| Mar. | 14th | Trinity Academy 2nd XI. | H | W | 2 | 1 |
| Mar. | 21st | West Calder High School | A | L | 1 | 2 |
| Mar. | 28th | Lasswade 1st XI. | H | W | 6 | 2 |

2ND XI. FIXTURES.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 29th | Trinity Academy 3rd XI. | H | L | 1 | 2 |
| Mar. | 14th | Lasswade 2nd XI. | H | W | 2 | 1 |

Owing to bad weather, the two teams have not been able to play all their matches this term. The 1st XI. have played only five games altogether, while the 2nd XI. have had two—one of which they managed to win.

## BOYS' INTER-SCHOLASTIC RUGBY SEVENS.

Two minutes from the start of our first game, against Moray House, loud shouts and yells came from the spectators as Reid charged down the right touch-line, pushing his way past his opponents, and in the end falling over the scoring line near the corner flag. The difficult kick failed.

Our Seven continued to press on their opponents' scoring line for the next few minutes, when, by a stupid cross-kick by an opponent, the ball fell into Bisset's hands, who had only to run over the line, between the bars. Against a strong wind the kick just missed the post.

When the second half started we resumed pressing and Brian Walker, our youngest member, ran from outside the twenty-five line, but he was forced to drop the ball just before reaching the scoring line. However, MacDonald successfully dummied one man, handed off another, and grounded the ball near the posts. The kick again just failed. This game finished without any additional scoring, *i.e.*, 9-0.

The next game, against James Clark's in the semi-final, was a little tougher. Just before half-time, Bisset, our Vice-Captain, had a champion cross-run ending a score far out. Again the kick failed.

In the second half, we were pressing the whole time on our opponents' scoring line, when from a scrum, Reid grabbed the ball and swished the ball out to Donnie Loudon, who charged over the line, 6-0 was the final score.

"We are now in the final," I said to myself, "the first time since 1928. Here's hoping for a win." An hour later, our Seven again appeared in their red-and-blue striped jerseys to play a very interesting game.

Douglas, for so he likes to be called, won the toss for the first time and chose to play with the wind. Towards the end of the first half, Douglas Reid dummied to the scrum-half and swinging round, charged for the line, which he reached in safety. At this I gave a cheer of delight. However, after a very hard and, by our side, a very well played game, their opponents gathered 11 points. So let us hope and take the example for the next year's Seven.

G. McK. (III. Up.)

## RUGBY NOTES.

### 1st XV. Fixtures.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 11th | Royal Deaf Institution | H | L | 0 | 35 |

### 2nd XV. Fixtures.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 11th | Heriot's 21st | H | L | 6 | 9 |
| Jan. | 25th | Preston Lodge 4th | A | L | 6 | 9 |
| Feb. | 29th | Heriot's 21st | H | D | 9 | 9 |
| Mar. | 3rd | Tynecastle 3rd | A | W | 55 | 0 |

### Junior Fixtures.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. | 21st | Gillespie's 2nd | H | L | 0 | 22 |
| Mar. | 28th | Gillespie's 2nd | H | W | 18 | 0 |

Like every other Club in Scotland, we have had the second half of our season spoiled by bad weather, and a confusion of fixtures and other causes finished off what the weather began. This was a pity, for, despite our difficulties over practices—we hardly ever succeeded in getting fifteen players a side for half-an-hour each way—we had quite a good side fore and aft, which would have given a good account of itself in matches. Anyhow, we have a likely-looking Seven and we hope it will do well.

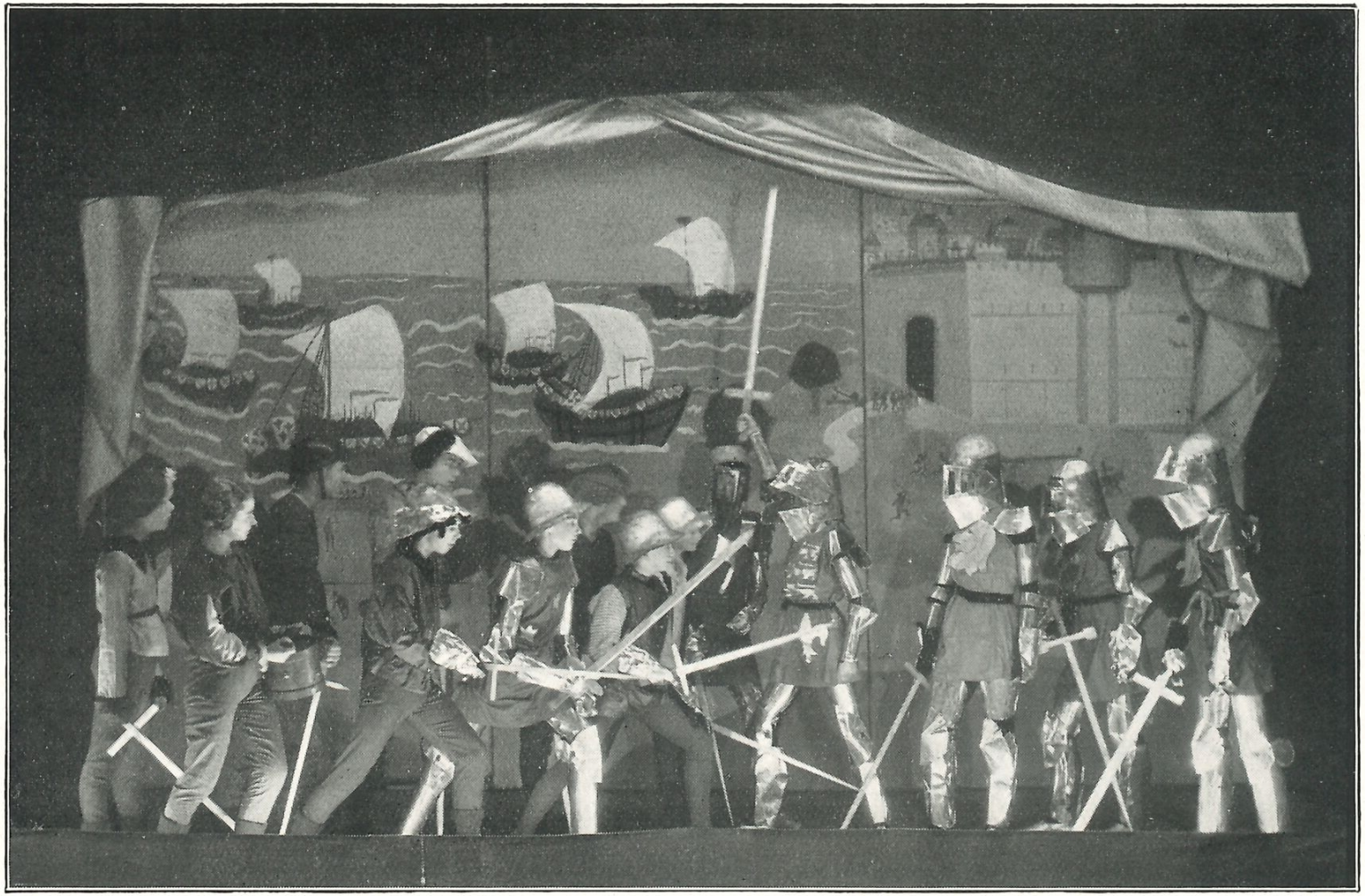
The 2nd XV. has been better for matches than the 1st, and has played both creditably and keenly. Though almost all our youngest boys have started to play only this year, they have displayed great keenness, and some ability. In almost every practice, they have shown enterprise.

C. T.

## JAUNT TO ABERFOYLE.

Two years ago a very successful Jaunt was held at Aberfoyle. Last year the Fête activities prevented a repetition of this reunion. This year however, the Former Pupils are to hold another Jaunt to Aberfoyle, on Saturday, 13th June. As before, 'bus parties will leave Glasgow (Cathedral Street, 2.30) and Edinburgh (Charlotte Square, 2 p.m.). The charge for Edinburgh "Levites" will be 6s. 6d., including tea. Those intending to come should send their names to Andrew Ogilvie, c/o Miss Coutts, 47 Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh, or to Kathleen Morrison, 26 Pitt Street. The charge for Glasgow "Levites" will be 5s., including tea. Those intending to come should send their names to James Murray, Y.M.C.A. Hostel, 58 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, or May Muir, 12 Vinicombe Street, Hillhead, Glasgow.

This Jaunt offers a happy reunion among some of the finest of our Scottish hills.



"The Siege of Harfleur."

## KING HENRY V.

Difficulties in production, an enormous cast and the epic nature of this play did not at all damp the ardour of the players or lessen the interest of their performance. To the writer who has been at every John Watson dramatic performance (except one), under Mr Tombleson's admirable direction, Henry V. ranks as the greatest achievement. For spectacle alone, nothing has approached this latest Shakespearian history. The colour of the beautiful costumes ; the splendour of heraldic pageantry ; the ingenuity, effectiveness and colourful simplicity of the scenery ; the dazzling realism of the beautifully contrived, authentically-jointed armour ; the whole staging of the piece were all calculated to make the highest possible appeal to the senses. Add to this able demonstration of stagecraft, a play of epic dimensions (demanding as the chorus so often stressed a continual recourse to " the pleasures of the imagination ") scattered with passages of great poetry ; infused with humour of the brightest kind ; softened and enriched during the intervals by music, and some idea of the appeal of this play will be given.

The thing that struck me most was the unity and completeness of the whole production. That there were faults no one will deny, least of all those responsible. But from the purchase of the artistic and instructive programme (at the modest price of 1s.) to the ringing down of the curtain after the fifth act, the play, I felt, was uniform and complete.

It would be possible to talk a long time about the appropriateness of the scenery or the stage furnishings, but special mention can only be made of " The Siege of Harfleur," in which delightful and pugnacious-looking men-of-war bobbed up and down in the Channel bearing their burden of the English military bound for France. The Castle of Agincourt, hiding discreetly behind a forest and flanked on all sides by hills, was ready when the time came to lend its name to a field of battle now immortal in the history of a nation.

Selection of players for special mention is at any time an invidious task. But it is not at all a congenial business when the cast is unusually large and of consistent ability.

The King (P. Gibb) was pre-eminent, partly by reason of his predominant role, partly by reason of his gifts. The majesty, the humility, the humanity of Henry's character were admirably portrayed by the young actor. A singularly clear enunciation gave grace to a part that would have been spoiled if it had been mumbled. Princess Katharine (Norma Thomas), daughter of the French King, was sweet and charming. As a daughter she was sweet, as a lover, charming. No one could resist the fascination of her broken English, while few could deny that her French accent was distinct and attractive, if not infallible. In the writer's opinion Fluellen (D. Bisset) played magnificently. Hazlitt, indeed, speaks truth when he says that Fluellen is " the most entertaining character of the piece."

Bardolph (D. Reid), Nym (A. Grant), Pistol (J. Lawrence) and the Hostess (Margaret Nish) provided a great deal of fun. Nym was particularly lively. His inordinate desire to cross swords made the audience feel glad that he was only an actor. How fierce and threatening he looked! The death of Falstaff set the quartet a-weeping properly. To reverse the rule, laughter lurked behind tears. Pistol ate his leek very efficiently. Bardolph poured oil on the troubled waters of his friends' disputations. He was a soothing presence, indeed. The camp-fire scene at Agincourt was very effective. Williams (J. Brown) played an interesting part and though smaller than Fluellen gave this Welsh officer a satisfactory 'pox of the ear.

The French war-lords were less interesting than their English counterparts. One felt that their courage would soon be turned to fear and their elation to despair. The parts were capably enough played. The criticism might be made that they were indistinct.

Special mention might be made of some whose task of playing two roles made it hard for them to shine in one. D. Loudon as Canterbury and the Constable, was very deft in his handling of difficult genealogies. R. Mitchell made a good Bishop of Ely and King of France. G. McKerron was traitorous Scroop and, as Burgundy, effected a happy reconciliation between the contending parties.

Some girls had the difficult and unenviable task of playing the parts of men. The Dauphin (Cynthia Cumming), Lord Montjoy (Sheila Scott), Duke of Gloucester (Christina Euman), may be mentioned in this connection. The Boy (Kathleen Drummond) played a hard part with flashes of great promise. Queen Isabel (May Heard), was exceedingly charming and graceful in the last scene and parted with her daughter in a most laudable fashion. Elsie Kincaid was a helpful chorus and designer of the programme.

It must be said then that this play was definitely an advance on its predecessors. The speech was less hurried and more audible than in former years, the acting less forced, the arrangement more accomplished. The critic and the audience thank all concerned for an enjoyable entertainment.

## JOHN WATSON'S REVISITED.

At nine o'clock, after an absence of nearly forty years, the writer passed by the Old School and saw the lights go out. It seemed but the other night, when a tap at the Wee Room door accompanied by a voice, " After nine, no more speaking here," brought another day to a close, and even now, when trying to obey the wishes of

Secretary Dilly in writing of the changes I saw in John Watson's, ghosts of the past rise to confound me. In essential things, there are no changes ; alterations, differences of detail, there are.

Major Naismith, one of ourselves, wears worthily the mantle of dear old Roux ; Miss Gellatly is the living counterpart of Miss Murray. Each brings back to memory the wonderful personalities of those great souls of the past. The John Watson body may be mould'ring in the grave but his soul goes marching on.

Sunday saw me, despite counter-attractions in the pulpits of Auld Reekie's kirks, in the front pew of the gallery facing the School gallery in the Dean Kirk. I wanted to see them (my contemporaries) arrive. There they come ! Peart, Chalmers, Wee Treasurer, Mackintosh, McQueen, Meister, Mackenzie, at least these are whom I saw. Gracious ! Were we as big and healthy-looking ? Roux was there and Miss Murray and Old Williamson in the pulpit ; how I wished the minister would say " Kno--wledge." How nice the girls looked and how attentive ; Miss Murray must be pleased with them to-day !

Seeing that my Club tie was prominently displayed, I await the " skailin'," and am recognised ! An Old chap ! What a joy to walk back with them, not in procession as formerly, but in friendly little groups.

It was Mossy's morning at church, but Roux, I mean Major Naismith, was there to receive us, and we were young again.

Didn't we lick the High Room mob that night, but wasn't it a dirty trick that Mossy played in getting Gray to play the organ to deceive us, and barged into the middle of the fun ? What a nasty lie Mackintosh told about walking in his sleep, and so on . . . . .

A delightful afternoon with the boys, Dr. Muirhead, Dilly and others, was not such a change either. Roux and Miss Murray did it in their own way. I am afraid I am wandering, but who wouldn't ? I do wish to say to those " Levites " who have not been privileged to revisit the School for many years, that the same fatherly care and thoughtfulness for the boys and girls is being abundantly maintained, if not enhanced, in what is a more brotherly and sisterly relationship.

I have now to mention a few of the new features. A much brighter entrance hall greets the visitor, glass panels having been inserted into the upper half of the door. The old hedge in the front park has gone, making the park much more serviceable as a sports ground. Inside I saw many improvements ; well-worn desks beautifully planed ; new lock-ups outside the bedrooms ; individual baths and sprays ; much improved flooring in some of the bedrooms ; four nice wash-hand basins and a drinking fountain in the playroom ; a very practical carpenter's shop, replete with tools of every kind, in the old Long-Playroom ; and a great boiler-house, which to me looked sufficient for the *Queen Mary*.

These are only a few of the new features. Many more are hatching in Major Naismith's fertile brain, and I hope I am betraying no secret in saying that I believe great things are coming. There was one fly in the ointment, however,—I refer to the beds. Many hundreds of us rested tired minds and bodies in them. They are still there, silent witnesses of the great services they have rendered, and they are now much overdue their own rest and retirement.

* I submit the suggestion that each "Levite" who is able, should replace one bed and gift it to the School as a tangible token of his or her gratitude. I hope the F.P. Club may see their way to adopt this suggestion and appeal to the members to have it carried out.

GEORGE MACKINTOSH (A.I., 1897).

## THE OLD BOYS' MATCH.

JOHN WATSON'S *v.* MR HOOD'S XV.

Disagreeable weather conditions prevailed on New Year's Day for the Annual Match and rain commenced shortly after the start.

Our visitors won the toss and John Watson's kicked off down-hill. The greasy state of the ball made handling difficult and, as a result, there was little play of a constructive nature. Eventually, after some pressure John Watson's went ahead through W. J. Dempster, who took a reverse pass from O. C. B. Forsyth to score a smart try. The kick failed.

Half-Time—John Watson's, 3. Mr Hood's XV., 0.

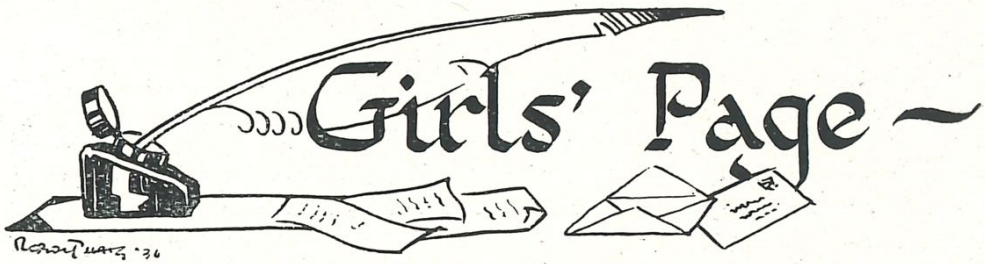
On the resumption, play remained mostly in our own '25 and the heavier weight forward of our visitors began to tell. Our forwards however, put up a plucky fight and combined with keen tackling by the backs and long and accurate kicking by Rae Wilson at full back, managed to keep our line intact. After more good work by the forwards, play was carried up-field and from a scrum near our visitors' '25, G. R. Millar with a dodging run, put John Watson's further ahead with an unconverted try. Full time came shortly after without any addition to the score.

Result—John Watson's, 6. Mr Hoods' XV., 0.

The following played for John Watson's :—J. W. Rae Wilson, W. M. Millar, G. R. Millar, A. D. Murray, W. J. Dempster, O. C. B. Forsyth, J. Wylie, N. L. Morrison, E. Pitcairn, R. A. Inglis, J. Pearson, G. D. S. Forsyth (capt.), A. Ogilvie, R. G. Scott.

A. D. M.

* EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Secretaries are to get into touch with the Directors and Staff of the School regarding this suggestion.




News from abroad in a newspaper sent from Exeter, California, tells us that Mrs Josephine Dofflemyer was elected President of the Tulars-Kings' Civic Music Association, at a meeting following the Concert of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, at Visalia, a few weeks ago. Mrs Dofflemyer is known to her J.W. friends as "Josey Mackintosh," B7.

To quote from the paper :—"Mrs Dofflemyer has served as Vice-President for the past year. An accomplished pianist in her own right, Mrs Dofflemyer is well known in musical circles of the two counties. She has appeared at many local musical functions in the past and is pianist for the trio composed of herself and Mr and Mrs Leland R. Long, 'cellist and violinist, which has played frequently at public gatherings in Exeter." She has been a diligent worker for this musical association since its beginning, five years ago. Her old friends heartily congratulate Mrs Dofflemyer!

Many congratulations to Mrs Charles M. Shaw, "Winifred Grainger" (C.6.) whose wedding notice is appended. A wedding in a church with such a quaintly delightful name must have been rather attractive—don't you think? Shaw-Grainger.—At the Wee Kirk o' the Heather, Los Angeles, California, on 28th December, by the Rev. James H. Lask, D.D., Hollywood Congregational Church, Charles M. Shaw to Winifred, only daughter of Mrs M. S. Grainger, Los Angeles, California, and formerly of 61 Chester Terrace, London.

Also hearty congratulations to Mrs Stuart—Marguerite Chapman—from all her old friends. She was married to Mr John H. Fraser Stuart, in King's College Chapel, Aberdeen.

On a visit for a few days last week, my hostess (as President of a "Women's Rural" in an Ayrshire mining village) interested me much by her tale of all their wonderful activities. What an interest has been brought into the lives of the women of this, and other such villages by the doings of "The Rural!" Not a meeting would they miss even though weather be inclement, and transit far from easy! They learn from, and teach each other the making of all sorts of pretty and useful things—not forgetting the arts of good cookery! They have their social nights, and so the winter passes until they end the season with a summer outing devised and planned by their kindly and ever-interested President—in this particular case—Mrs Forsythe Brown, formerly Kate Bruce. It's a great thing, to be able, and willing, to help in the carrying on of such a good work! bringing an interest to life in country villages.

About ourselves—for the third time in succession, John Watson's School Hockey Team have come off victorious in the Hockey Sevens ! The day was one of the coldest, but their hard playing kept them warm, and made them ready to appreciate the special high tea which awaited them on their triumphant return.

*The Players are, from top row, left to right—*
Doris McGown, Cynthia Cumming, Winnie Jeffrey, Sheila Scott, May Herd, Jessie Abbott, Lyndall Miles.

MEMBERS ADMITTED, 1935.

Brain, Mrs R. T., (Annie Watkins), 3201 West 43rd Place, Los Angeles, California.
Brymer, Margaret, 14 Arden Street, Edinburgh.
McLeod, Thora, c/o Mrs Hogg, 46 Polwarth Gardens, Edinburgh.

RE-ADMITTED.

Millar, Ruth, F.R.C.S., " Rhuvar," Grieve Street, Dunfermline.

## GLASGOW GLEANINGS.

Glasgow " Levites " gathered in the Plaza on Saturday, 29th February, to hold what is now becoming an annual function. Thirty-four members and friends were present and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The presence of so many gentlemen on this most feminine of days is to be commended and the carnival spirit which prevailed throughout the evening went a long way to making the dance an outstanding success. It is hoped that those Former Pupils who unfortunately were unable to be present on this occasion, will be with us next year.

The Glasgow Girls' F.P. Club is still going strong. We have now quite a large membership and the average number of attendances at the various meetings has been very good indeed.

On Tuesday, 1st October, the Annual Business Meeting was held in the La Scala Tearooms, and, as a result, the undernoted were elected Office-Bearers for the season October (1935) to June (1936), and the syllabus thereafter drawn up. *President*—Ena Murray ; *Vice-President*—Mrs Percy ; *Secretary and Treasurer*—May Muir ; *Committee*—Mrs Mackay and Joan Mitchell.

The first Social Evening of the season was held on Wednesday, 23rd October, and with Mrs Cairns acting as hostess, the feeling of enjoyable anticipation with which these evenings are now regarded was fully justified.

In November the usual " Talkie Outing " was substituted by a visit to the Theatre, and the 15th of the month saw fifteen of us at the Theatre Royal, where the presentation of " Yellow Sands," by the Brandon Thomas Players, was voted an outstanding success, so much so that the Theatre Outing was immediately marked up as an "Annual."

Mrs Burns acted as hostess at our December Social Evening, on the 10th, which lived well up to the reputation of its predecessors.

With the New Year festivities not yet forgotten, a number of us carried the spirit (no pun) forward to the Reunion in the Capital, in January, and on the 17th another social evening was held with Mrs Mackay as hostess.

March was fixed for the Whist Drive. On this occasion, as ever, Mr and Mrs Percy " turned up trumps " and we take this opportunity of thanking them on behalf of the Club and its members for the magnificent way in which they entertained us.

There were sixteen of us congregated at 326 Maxwell Road and shortly after 7.30 we settled down to our evening's enjoyment. Most of us had varied luck and made a more or less—in some cases definitely less—progressive journey round the tables.

We were all happy to welcome Rex, who came through from Edinburgh for the occasion, and we were glad to see that his journey was not altogether unfruitful, as we were able to applaud his winning the gentlemen's " Booby " prize. With this encouraging prospect as an enticement, we hope that perhaps next year we will have a number of visitors from Edinburgh.

Towards the end of the evening we had a delightful supper, after which the prizes were graciously presented by Mrs Ian White. In addition to the usual " Firsts " and " Boobies," there was a box

of eggs for the "longest sitter." Miss Symon and Professor Stevenson tied for this distinction, but Professor Stevenson chivalrously ceded the honour to Miss Symon who, we hope, enjoyed the eggs, boiled, scrambled or poached.

Our April Meeting had unfortunately to be cancelled owing to the illness of our hostess, Miss D. McKenzie.

Next month we are arranging to have an Outing, but so far there is nothing fixed. In June we anticipate having a Joint-Outing with the Edinburgh Club, but perhaps we are being too previous?

M. M. and E. M.

## "LEVITE'S" PUBLIC APPOINTMENT.

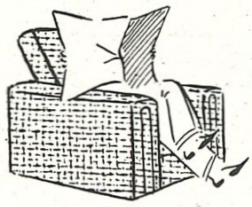
The Edinburgh "Evening Dispatch" of 30th April, 1936, published the following article on the appointment of Colonel Jolly (1900) to an important post :—

"An Edinburgh man has been appointed to the post of Secretary-General by the Council of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and will enter upon his duties in July. He is Lieut.-Colonel Gordon G. Jolly, C.I.E., V.H.S., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M., son of the late Rev. James Jolly, and brother of Professor William A. Jolly, of Edinburgh.

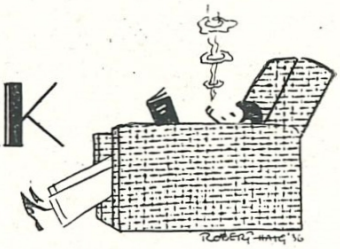
"Colonel Jolly has has a distinguished career in the Indian Medical Service. He has had wide administrative experience, and is at present Officiating Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, the highest public health post under the Government. In 1913 he took the Diploma for Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Edinburgh and Glasgow, obtaining the first place, and also took Sir Richard Philip's course qualifying for appointment as a tuberculosis officer. Last year he was appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy of India."

Colonel Jolly left School in 1900, having entered in 1895. He is the youngest of three brother "Levites."

The Club wishes to congratulate Colonel Jolly on his appointment and wishes him every success in his new office.



# CLUB TALK



Ian MacCallum (1926) has passed the Final Second Year Examination in Wool Classing at the Sydney Technical College, with Honours. Also he was placed third, two others being first equal, in the New South Wales (Junior) State sheep judging competition.

Some " Levites " may remember having worn black ties when King Edward the Seventh died. The same ties were used for King George's mourning. They may have been used at the death of Queen Victoria !

J. W. Orr (1929) was playing Rugby in England for the Fettesians-Lorettonians during Christmas. His photograph, in rugger strip, appeared in some of the London papers.

Here is an interesting extract of a letter from a " Levite " (Mr H. D. Saxby) who left in 1883. " In the current issue of *The Levite* I notice a reference to Hardie Watkins who is reported to have died in San Francisco in 1913. I remember him well. He entered John Watson's the same year as I did, 1879. My brother took Watkins in tow along with me for our first day or two, until we were favourably ' adopted ' by our respective ' Big Chaps.'

Watkins and I shared a bed in the Big Room one year, and during my last year at the School we were together in the Wee Room with my brother, Ian Warner, John Boyd and Melville McCalman.

I left the School in 1883 (two years before the usual time) and as he remained till 1885 I know nothing of his last two years. I recollect however, that he was an excellent penman and was exceptionally good at drawing. Davy Hamilton was a contemporary of ours and would most probably be able to relate some later history."

R. G. Scott (1931) has passed the Solicitors' Book-keeping and Accounting Examination. Gordon is one of the best cricketers the School has produced for many years and will probably be playing again for the Edinburgh Academicals 1st.

During the Christmas holidays, the Drilling-Room and the Brushing-Room were painted by squads of Old Boys.

Jack Wylie (1935) has been appointed to an apprenticeship in the Royal Air Force.

Alec Hamilton (1928) once at Southampton, has left for the R.A.F. base at Aden.

" Levites " are reminded at this time of the year that a large supply of ties (4s. each) are available from F. R. Dilly, 58 Polwarth Gardens, Edinburgh, 11. Blazers (£2 2s., tailor-made) may be had from J. C. Smith, 91 Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

The Council suggests that any F.P.'s who know of children suitable for entrance to the School should communicate with the Secretary.

James Grant (1932) is now at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, with a Wakefield Scholarship.

Stuart Smith (1928) is now Secretary of Glasgow University Students' Union.

Herb. Brodie (1935) was playing towards the end of the season for Hillhead High School First Rugby Fifteen.

Contemporaries of the Rev. J. A. Wilson (1890) will be interested to hear of the marriage on 1st July, of one of his daughters.

James Jackson (1928) passed his final examination for Chartered Accountant in December. He has left for Bombay on a trip as steward.

David Shaw (1924) is now Procurator with a firm of Solicitors in Cupar, Fife.

Jimmy Dempster (1931) was playing rugby for the 2nd Heriot's F.P.'s He is now studying Medicine and has passed his First Professional Examination.

" Levites " may remember the hair-brush controversy which waxed hot and strong in the pages of the Magazine some time ago. For those who love to " summon up remembrance of things past " it may be interesting to know that a watch left by mistake in a pigeon-hole in the Brushing-Room, forty years ago, is still keeping accurate time !

## JOHN WATSON'S F.P. BADMINTON CLUB.

Season 1935-36 has been a most successful year in every way. Home and away matches were played against Grange and Craiglockhart. 2 of the 4 matches were won, 1 lost and 1 drawn.

The following members played for the team :—Chrissie Paton, Jenny Wilson, Patricia Wylie, Gilbert Clark, Sandy Clark, George Forsyth, Andrew Ogilvie and Jack Wylie.

The Club membership stands at 20, but since for various reasons, several old members are unable to come regularly, new

members will be welcomed. The Subscription is 7s. 6d., and for those who have left J.W.I., but are carrying their studies further, 3s. 6d. On comparison with other Clubs in the city it will be found that these figures are very much lower and F.P.'s have the added attraction of meeting old School friends and of making new ones with a common interest. The Club meets every Tuesday and Friday, from 7 o'clock onwards.

Two Dances were organised, one in November and one in February. These proved very successful, and it is hoped that these social evenings will be continued next year.

A. D. M.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

It has been thought that a Photographic Competition for "Levites" might be started this year. Such a competition would stimulate interest as well as provide amusement. Entries for the competition should be sent to the Editor at least a month before the publication of the Autumn number of *The Levite*. Though all topics will be acceptable, preference will be shown to subjects of School interest. The winning photograph will be published in the forthcoming number of the Magazine.

## SCHOOL ARTISTS.

The recent gift to the School of a number of pictures has re-awakened interest in our three former pupil artists, and the editor has asked me to give a few notes on their work and connection with the School.

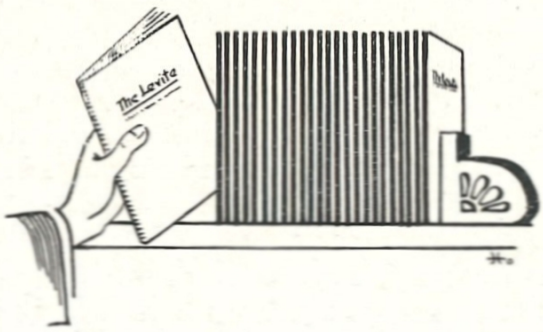
The most famous of the trio is Dr. Peter Graham, R.A., who entered the School in 1843 and left in 1850. We are told that he was precocious at school and showed ability in more than one direction. On leaving school, he entered the Academy under Robert Scott Lauder and began exhibiting as early as 1855, though it was not until 1863 that one of his exhibits, "In the Highlands," brought him definitely to the forefront of landscape painters. He died at St. Andrews in 1921. Some years ago the Club presented to the School two photogravures of Peter Graham's pictures. They hang in the Pupils' Dining Rooms. To them has now been added a third, "The Spate." In all of them there is evidence of his masterly depicting of sea and rocky coast.

The next in seniority, Thomas Graham, H.R.S.A., was the son of a Writer to the Signet, and entered School in 1847 at the age of five. During his boyhood he showed a strongly artistic disposition and, on leaving, also entered the Academy under Lauder. Later he removed to London where he shared a house with two other well-known artists, W. O. Orchardson and John Pettie. He contributed regularly to the London and Scottish Exhibitions. The Scottish Academy obituary notice states "His fine presence and singular

charm of manner endeared Graham to an unusually large circle of friends and his death in 1906 created a blank, difficult to fill, in the ranks of those who, though practising in London, have remained distinctively Scottish in their art." Three of his paintings are now hung in the School, one of them, a very large one entitled "The Last Boat" has been sent to several exhibitions in this country and abroad, and is ranked among the artist's best. It hangs in the Chapel and a reproduction of it is in the Girls' Dining Room. We have also an engraving of another of his better known works, "The Lighthouse—A Passing Salute," and of this we have also one of his preliminary sketches.

Hector Chalmers, R.S.A., our third artist is still, happily, with us. He also entered school at the age of five and left in 1862. Beginning as a lithographer, he found time to attend classes at the Sculpture Gallery and the R.S.A. Life Class, where he gained the drawing prize. His earlier work was in figure subjects but gradually he drifted into landscape with complementary figures and this he still professes. Several oil paintings by Hector Chalmers are to be found in the permanent collections of Glasgow and Dundee. We are now fortunate to possess four examples of his work. One of them came with the Graham pictures from our kind donor, two of them were presents to Miss Gellatly from Professor Stevenson and one is the gift of the artist himself. All hang in the Chapel.

Hector Chalmers, now in his 89th year, is the "Father" of our Former Pupils, but he is as active and energetic as many a man twenty years his junior (and, if you had seen him a week or two ago running down the Belford Road with the writer to catch a 'bus, you would immediately have knocked off another twenty). Lately, he has been having an exhibition in George Street which he declares is his "Swan Song," but we do not believe it. His vitality is too abundant to allow him to lay down the brush.

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